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23 DECEMBER 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: CHIEFS OF OPERATING DIVISIONS
FROM: CHIEF, FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE
SUBJECT: ACTIVATION OF THE INTELLIGENCE WATCH OFFICER GROUP

1. THE INTELLIGENCE WATCH OFFICER GROUP (IWOG), THE ACTIVATION OF WHICH WAS APPROVED BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR (PLANS) ON 4 MARCH 1959, WILL BEGIN OPERATING IN THE NEAR FUTURE, PROBABLY DURING THE LATTER PART OF JANUARY 1960. THE DELAY IN ACTIVATION WELL BEYOND THE ORIGINAL TARGET DATE WAS CAUSED BY THE DIFFICULTY ENCOUNTERED IN LOCATING AND IN SECURING THE ASSIGNMENT TO THE IWOG OF QUALIFIED PERSONNEL AS WATCH OFFICERS. FIVE OF THE SIX WATCH OFFICER POSITIONS HAVE BEEN FILLED, AND A SIXTH OFFICER NOW IS UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR ASSIGNMENT.

2. THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE WATCH OFFICER FUNCTION WILL DEPEND IN LARGE MEASURE ON THE EXTENT OF THE SUPPORT RENDERED TO THE IWOG BY THE OPERATING DIVISIONS. THE WILLINGNESS THUS FAR OF THE CHIEF REPORTS OFFICERS OF THE VARIOUS OPERATING DIVISIONS TO ASSIST THE CHIEF, IWOG HAS BEEN MOST GRATIFYING. MUCH MORE DETAILED ASSISTANCE NOW IS NEEDED. THERE ARE CERTAIN TYPES OF INFORMATION, AVAILABLE ONLY WITHIN THE OPERATING DIVISIONS, THAT THE INTELLIGENCE WATCH OFFICER GROUP WILL NEED IN ORDER TO ASSUME ITS RESPONSIBILITY FOR DISSEMINATING INTELLIGENCE CABLES. ATTACHED IS A BRIEF EXPLANATION OF THE MISSION AND FUNCTIONS OF THE INTELLIGENCE WATCH OFFICER GROUP, TOGETHER WITH A DETAILED EXPLANATION OF THE TYPES OF INFORMATION THAT THE OPERATING DIVISIONS ARE REQUESTED TO FURNISH TO THE IWOG.

3. COPIES OF THIS MEMORANDUM AND ITS ATTACHMENT ARE FORWARDED IN SUFFICIENT NUMBERS THAT A COPY MAY BE MADE AVAILABLE TO EACH PERSON INVOLVED IN COMPILING THE NEEDED DATA.

APPROVED:

DEPUTY DIRECTOR (PLANS)

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